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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART I. AFRICA

Section 18 - Somalia (North-West)

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02298

I.18 SOMALIA (NORTH-WEST)

1. Beneficiary population

1. The main beneficiaries of UNHCR activities in North-West Somalia are the estimated 650,000 returnees from neighbouring Djibouti, Ethiopia and Yemen, other parts of the Horn of Africa sub-region, and elsewhere. Out of this number, it is believed that between 300,000 to 400,000 Somali refugees had repatriated spontaneously from neighbouring countries to North-West Somalia in 1991. The expected total number of repatriants during 1995 and 1996 is 350,000, returning from: Ethiopia (280,000), Djibouti (25,000), Kenya (35,000), and Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other countries (10,000).

2. There are currently 400 UNHCR-assisted Ethiopian refugees in Hargeisa. The majority of these, about 64 per cent, are adult men, mainly former military personnel or officials of the previous Ethiopian regime.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. The relative peace and stability which North-West Somalia enjoyed from mid-1993 allowed UNHCR to undertake a number of preparatory activities during 1994 to encourage and facilitate the voluntary return of the Somali refugees who still live in neighbouring countries, mainly in Ethiopia and Djibouti. These activities included an information campaign among refugees in asylum countries, while in North-West Somalia efforts were concentrated on the promotion of peace negotiations between various opposing clans, assistance towards reintegration of returnees, and rehabilitation of infrastructure in major returnee areas in the sectors of health, sanitation, water, education, and livestock, through the implementation of quick impact projects (QIPs).

4. As a result of the above activities, plans were finalized during the second half of 1994 to commence an organized repatriation programme on the basis of a pilot project involving the return of 10,000 refugees from eastern Ethiopia to North-West Somalia. However, the plan was suspended pending resolution of the conflict which broke out in and around Hargeisa in November 1994.

5. In June 1995, the central administration in Hargeisa gave UNHCR written approval for the pilot repatriation of 10,000 Somali refugees from eastern Ethiopia camps. At the same time, the central administration also approved the voluntary return of all Somali refugees from asylum countries. In view of this positive development, the UNHCR Office in Hargeisa, in consultation with the UNHCR Regional Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, is working on modalities to effect the reception, onward movement and reintegration of returnees in their areas of return. This pilot project is expected to be implemented from August 1995. Lessons learnt will pave the way for the implementation of a large-scale repatriation programme from Ethiopia planned to take place in 1996.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

6. **Ethiopian refugees**: UNHCR will continue to assist the 400 Ethiopian refugees presently in North-West Somalia under care and maintenance pending durab solutions for them.

7. **Reintegration of Somali returnees**: In 1996, UNHCR will continue the implementation of the ongoing returnee programme in North-West Somalia, focusing rehabilitation of community-based services and infrastructure, to further enhance the absorption capacity in returnee areas. QIPs in the sectors of water, health, sanitation, education, agriculture, livestock and shelter will continue to be implemented in collaboration with international agencies and local non-government organizations (NGOs).

8. More efforts will be focused on the areas of Zeila, Lughaya, Gabiley, Berbera, Las Anod and Erigavo, which have received considerable numbers of returnees but which have not previously benefited from assistance. Although the targeted beneficiary population is essentially returnees, local communities and internally displaced persons in these areas will also benefit from the basic services to be provided.

9. Finally, in addition to the planned reintegration of large numbers of returnees from Djibouti and Ethiopia in 1996, repatriants returning individually in small groups from various countries to North-West Somalia will also benefit fr the reintegration activities.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

10. **Care and maintenance**: The prospect of finding a satisfactory durable solution for the 400 Ethiopian refugees currently in Hargeisa, either in terms of voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement, appear slim for the ti being. It is therefore proposed to continue care and maintenance assistance in 1996. In this regard, it is proposed that the 1996 assistance be maintained at t same level as in 1995.

(ii) Special Programmes

11. **Reintegration of Somali returnees**: While the political situation in North-West Somalia is evolving since the declaration of independence from the res of Somalia in 1991, the few major security incidents have been localized around Hargeisa and Burao. Thus, the thrust of the returnee assistance programme, as we as the planned repatriation from asylum countries, will be targeted at those area and regions which are considered safe so that reintegration activities can be implemented effectively. The proposed budget for the special programme is based the assumption that the current positive political climate towards repatriation, and the likely increased desire among refugees, particularly in Ethiopia, to

repatriate as a result of new government policy, will trigger a large and sustained movement of returnees towards North-West Somalia. This may also encourage the voluntary return of many refugees from other countries.

12. In view of the vast destruction caused by the civil war and the consequent considerable rehabilitation needs of the region, assistance will continue to be provided in all major returnee-affected areas in the sectors of health, water, sanitation, and shelter to consolidate the achievements that are planned in 1995.

13. The following is a sectoral breakdown of the initial and revised 1995 and initial 1996 allocation for reintegration assistance (in dollars):

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	230,000	0	0
Transport	1,000,000	1,200,000	1,073,000
Domestic needs	0	100,000	20,000
Water	450,000	500,000	510,000
Sanitation	100,000	100,000	200,000
Health	250,000	500,000	350,000
Shelter	460,000	300,000	345,000
Community services	250,000	100,000	100,000
Education	750,000	900,000	700,000
Crop production	250,000	70,000	70,000
Livestock	0	100,000	150,000
Fisheries	250,000	75,000	75,000
Income generation	250,000	100,000	100,000
Legal assistance	60,000	50,000	50,000
Agency op. support	700,000	1,000,000	1,135,600
Total	5,000,000	5,095,000	4,878,600

(c) Implementing partners

14. In coordination with the Central Administration, rehabilitation projects in favour of returnees will be implemented in the form of QIPs, through partnership with local and international NGOs. NGOs will be selected on the basis of their proven capacity to carry out objective needs assessment, as well as requisite skills and experience. WFP will supply basic food for the vulnerable groups amongst the returnee and displaced populations and will implement food-for-work programmes. UNHCR will continue to encourage UNDP participation in demobilization and disarmament activities to ensure the return of refugees in conditions of safety and dignity. A joint UNHCR/UNESCO mine awareness campaign will be implemented in the areas of reintegration. FAO will implement livestock projects.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

15. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

16. The 1994 expenditure was higher than revised estimates due to higher t expected staff costs. This was the result of the volatile security situation whereby staff assigned to North-West Somalia remained on mission status with hi costs on travel and subsistence. The security situation also resulted in highe than foreseen satellite communication expenses. However, these expenditures we slightly offset by savings made under non-expendable property, particularly vehicles, which were not purchased because of the prevailing insecurity.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

17. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates due to inclusion of temporary assistance to cover staffing needs in operational bases which were established to facilitate planned repatriation. Furthermore, UNHCR' presence in Hargeisa has been strengthened by the creation of two Professional three General Service posts. In 1994 the security situation precluded the plan procurement of vehicles and other non-expendable property. Provisions have therefore been made for these items in the revised 1995 estimates.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

18. Proposed 1996 requirements include provisions for staffing levels simi to those for the revised 1995 requirements. Until organized repatriation movem to North-West Somalia start, short-term staff will continue to support the operational bases in North-West Somalia. Reduced provisions for non-expendable property are made under the initial 1996 requirements, on the assumption that m of the required purchases will take place in 1995 as planned. If this is not t case, they will have to be deferred to 1996 at which time the estimates will be revised. On the present assumption that the security situation will allow the of UNHCR vehicles within the country in 1996, no provision is made for rental o vehicles, which prevailing insecurity necessitated in previous years.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN SOMALIA (NORTH-WEST SOMALIA)

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
67.2	60.0	57.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	57.0
0.4 a/	-	-	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	-
67.6	60.0	57.0	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	57.0
67.6	60.0	57.0	TOTAL (1)	57.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
3,073.5	5,000.0	5,095.0	HORN OF AFRICA	4,878.6
1,421.4	1,042.5	1,859.0	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,546.1
4,494.9	6,042.5	6,954.0	TOTAL (2)	6,424.7
4,562.5	6,102.5	7,011.0	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	6,481.7

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes